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JAPAN
Education



GENERAL VIEW OF GOLDEN CASTLE GIRLS' SCHOOL, NAGOYA, JAPAN

“Kinjo Jo Gakko”
Golden Castle Girls' School
Nagoya, Japan



BY
MISS CHARLOTTE THOMPSON, PRINCIPAL



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Historical Record

The school was established in September, 1888, and government license received September, 1889. Mrs. Randolph, the first principal, began the school with three girls, in a house having two small rooms, with one window in each room. There were two departments in the school, a preparatory course of three years and a high school course of four years. Any graduate from the government primary school was eligible to enter the first class of the high school course. In addition to the regular school work, any pupil who desired could be taught music.

At this time girls’ education in Japan was on a very low plane, much lower than for boys. In fact, there were no government schools for girls in the Empire. In Nagoya there was only one small mission school which had been started by the Northern Methodist Church. The education of girls in Japan was commenced by missionaries, and our mission felt strongly the need of a school in connection with their work here in the stronghold of Buddhism.

Gradually the attendance increased, and in July, 1891, a new school was built. In November of the following year Mrs. Randolph gave up her work here and returned to America, and Miss Ona Patterson became the principal. In March, 1892, Miss Patterson was married to the Rev. C. K. Cumming, and Miss Ella R. Houston became principal, and for twenty years devoted herself to the best development of the school, instilling into the minds and hearts of these Japanese girls the teachings of Christ, and sending them forth into the world with a desire to perpetuate these high ideals and principles of right living. In May, 1912, Miss Houston became ill and after a short illness, died in the hospital here. According to her wishes her body was laid to rest in the little Christian cemetery here, overlooking the city. Her death, and burial in Japan, have made a great impression on her Japanese friends, even on those who are not yet Christians.

Miss Charlotte Thompson, who had been assisting Miss Houston in the school work for three years, was then installed as principal, and is still in charge of the school.

In 1894 the first pupil was graduated from the school.

As Christianity and Christian education began gradually to spread in Nagoya, our school was found to be too small for its students, so in 1901, we moved to our present site, and rebuilt. In March, 1904, a new two-story building was erected, the lower floor being divided into three parts and used as a chapel, study-hall and class-rooms, the upstairs being used as a dormitory.

At this time eighteen girls, two teachers and a matron could be comfortably accommodated. Later the number of pupils increased, so that in October, 1908, our present chapel, with three class-rooms above, was built, the former chapel being made into class-rooms.

Until within the last ten years no public schools for girls were established in Japan, so that mission schools were founded and run on strictly individual lines. Since the establishment of government schools many laws regulating them have been made, and private schools have been more or less obliged to conform to these rules, in order to obtain government recognition.

As the education of Japanese girls had advanced very greatly, and as in the City of Nagoya alone there were four high schools for girls and many sewing schools, we felt that the curriculum and equipment of this school was deficient and should be brought up to the standard demanded in the regular high schools, and we therefore changed the catalogue and classified the school anew. The curriculum, the buildings and outside surroundings are all prescribed by the government.

This new school of ours was built in accordance with these rules, and in January, 1914, we made application to the Minister of Education that our school be recognized as complying with all the rules laid down in the educational law, and that our pupils be admitted to higher government schools without examination. This is in connection with the regular high school course. In due course the application was granted and the school received full Government recognition.

We also asked permission to give with the regular course a three-year course in sewing. This was granted and has been in effect since April, 1914.

Students of these two courses are allowed to study instrumental music if they wish. Instruction is also given in instrumental music to outside pupils when desired, and this is entirely separate from any other course.

In March, 1913, the old buildings, with the exception of the chapel, were torn down, and neat, substantial and attractive buildings erected.

The right to operate a street car line on the street to the north of the school was granted a company, and in order to make the street wide enough for this purpose, a strip of land was condemned, which cut off from our property twenty-eight hundred and eighty square feet, on which was a beautiful old pine tree three

hundred years old. There were seven of these old trees in the city, which were planted in the sixteenth century by Hideyoshi, the great warrior, and it was with great regret that we consented to part with a tree so much prized for its beauty as well as historical association. Although this tree was over three hundred years old, it was found to be in perfect condition. Two sections of the trunk were cut into planks of five inches each, and these alone brought over three hundred dollars to the purchaser of the tree.

We tried to buy a strip of land to the east of our property on which to erect a gymnasium, but the owners of the electric street railway company refused to part with this, as they felt it was necessary to have this for their own buildings. It is a custom in this school to assign to each class a plot of ground for a small garden, and entire freedom is given the pupils regarding its cultivation. This work is used in connection with their study of botany and for experimental purposes. We will be obliged now to use the land formerly used for the school flower beds on which to erect our gymnasium.

The motto for this year was selected by the girls. Each girl and teacher was asked to select one or two verses of scripture that would be desirable for the school motto for the coming year. From the verses submitted, we selected the ten most appropriate and had the girls vote on them. The one which was selected is "In everything give thanks." This has been written, framed and hung over the rostrum in the chapel. We are all trying to practice this every minute of the day.

During the twenty-seven years of this school's existence, we have had trials, persecutions and misunderstandings, but with patience and perseverance we believe we have succeeded in placing our school on a solid foundation, and that it will live for many years to come and do a great work.

Buildings

Our school is divided into three parts: The main school building with a small house adjoining for domestic science training, the dormitory, and the foreign teachers' home. All these buildings are in foreign style, and are painted buff with golden brown trimmings.

Main Building

The school building comprises one large assembly hall, four ordinary class rooms, one science room, one especially equipped room for history, geography, drawing and Japanese writing, one music room, one large Japanese room for sewing, two rooms for Japanese etiquette, two rooms for domestic science, seven small individual organ practice rooms, a library, the principal's office, a small business office, a teacher's room, a reception room, a rest room for girls, and a luncheon room for the day pupils.

Particular attention has been given the matter of acoustics in the assembly hall and class-rooms, and every precaution taken to insure perfect ventilation, and an abundance of light and sunshine in all rooms. In fact, one of the government regulations in Japan is that class rooms shall have a southern exposure, and we have complied fully with this requirement.

Dormitory

The dormitory comprises the matron's room, three rooms for teachers, twelve rooms for pupils (each room can accommodate three to five girls), two reception rooms, an assembly hall (which if necessary can be converted into two sleeping rooms), toilets, bath, laundry, hospital room, dispensary, a large dining room and kitchen, with two servants' rooms adjoining.

The teachers' rooms are the same as those of the girls, excepting that the matting is of an especially good quality and that each room has a large "tokonoma." A "tokonoma" is a sort of little alcove, raised above the floor about one foot. A flower vase on a small stand is usually placed here, and a long panel picture (which is changed with each season of the year) is hung on the wall. A "tokonoma" is considered a very important part of a Japanese room and the guest of honor is always asked to sit in front of it or near it. This honor is always declined at first, but after much pressing the guest accepts with seeming reluctance.

There is no furniture used in these rooms. The "futon" (much the same as our comforters) which are used for the beds, are taken out of a cupboard every night and placed on the matted floor, and "zabuton" (cushions) placed on the floor are used for seats. Nothing further is considered necessary in the way of furnishings. The dormitory is lighted with electricity—the lights in the girls' rooms being turned off at 9:30, and the teachers use their own discretion in the matter.

The greatest care has been taken to insure proper ventilation and the best hygienic conditions, and it is gratifying to report that in every respect the dormitory passes the most rigid inspection.

There is a large platform built on top of the servants' quarters where clothing may be hung to dry, bedding, etc., aired. Practically all the cleaning in the dormitory is done by the pupils. The floors are rubbed up every morning and now they shine so that you can almost see your face in them. No shoes are ever worn in the house by Japanese, so the floors and matting are not marked or scratched as would otherwise be the case.

Two servants are employed, one as cook and the other acts as "errand boy," and together they receive five dollars a month and their food.

There are domiciled in the dormitory at present twenty-three pupils, one matron and one assistant matron. In summer they rise at 5:30, exercise 6:30 to 7:00, breakfast at 7:00, and from 7:30 to 7:45 is spent in Bible reading and silent prayer. School work commences with prayer at eight. In the winter months the program is changed slightly, as we then rise at six and exercise later in the day.

Between four and five o'clock every afternoon the dormitory girls exercise on the playground. Between the administration building and the dormitory there is a space of about a quarter of an acre which we use as a playground. In this we have a tennis court, tether ball poles, ping pong tables and many other things to induce the girls to exercise regularly. They are fond of basket, captain, and volley ball, and in fact all the games that American girls like. Around the buildings and along the fences we have flower beds which are in care of the girls. In these we are planning to have plants that bloom in the different seasons, and hope to have flowers every month in the year.

Foreign Teachers' House

This is a frame house, the same as the other buildings, and painted the same colors, with a veranda about four feet wide on the south side. This is enclosed with glass and in winter we keep our plants here. On the first floor there is a sitting room, dining room and kitchen, hall and a small study opening off of it. Upstairs there are four bedrooms (including the servants' room) and a small bath room. The sun pours into all the rooms, and it is a bright, comfortable and pretty place. The garden is not very large—about the size of a small pocket handkerchief, but we are trying to have every kind of flower in it and get as many of the home flowers to grow as we can.

Curriculum

At present we have the following departments: A girls' high school course, a one year's post-graduate course, a course in sewing and a course in vocal and instrumental music.

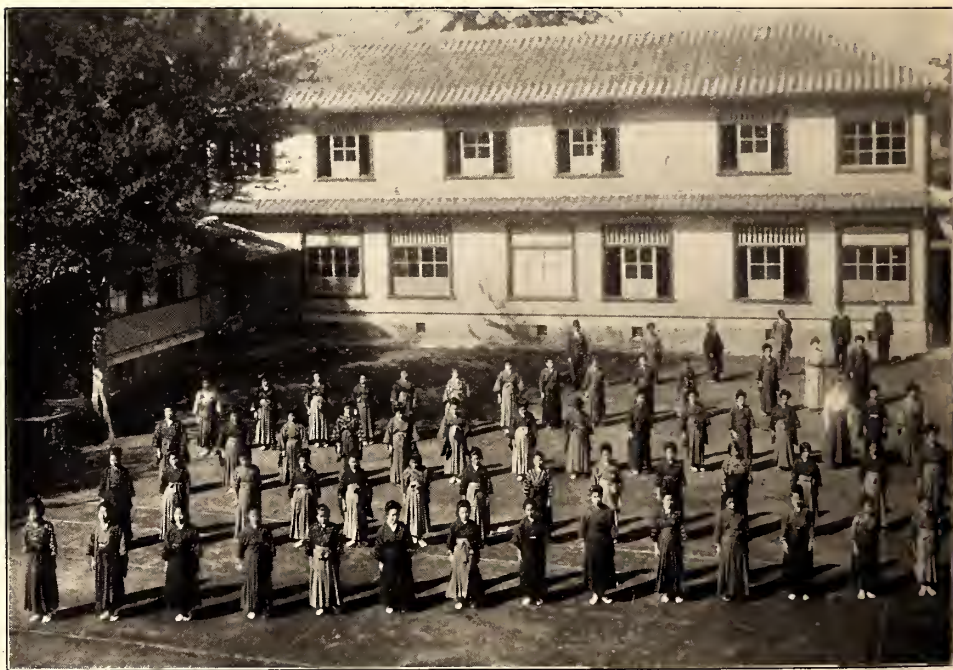
The high school course is the same as the government high school for girls, with the exception of two hours a week for Bible study.

The post-graduates take those studies which will better prepare them for the work of higher institutions and the home life. In this class we give much time to music, English, sewing and cooking.

The sewing course requires three years and includes all branches of the regular high school course, except English. The extra hours are spent on sewing, which is one of the most important of all studies for girls.



MISS CHARLOTTE THOMPSON, PRINCIPAL



STUDENT BODY



IO GAKKO"—GOLDEN CASTLE GIRLS' SCHOOL



FACULTY AND GRADUATES 1914



The music course has in view the training of girls for organ playing in schools and churches, and the teaching of sight-singing in the primary schools.

This school makes a specialty of music and has some excellent results to show from the work. We have several small individual organ practice rooms, each room about four by six feet. The pupils are each given instruction of twenty-five minutes twice every week.

The rules governing etiquette are very strict in Japan, and every girl (even though not of a high social position) is expected to be familiar with them. The exact way in which a lady should enter and leave a room, how to sit on cushion on floor, how to rise, how to serve tea and cake, the art of bowing—all are matters of definite and distinct rules, and each girl must master the art or be considered very rude and ill-bred. Even the matter of how the hands should be folded in the lap (the left hand over the right) is one which requires special and careful training, and it is a very necessary part of a Japanese girl's education to know how to comport herself properly on every social occasion.

The arrangement of flowers and the ceremonial tea service are taught, and they require a life time to master thoroughly. This course was commenced in September, 1914, and it is optional with the pupils whether they take it or not.

Foreign etiquette is also taught, as it is desirable that pupils should know how to act in a foreign home. They must be taught how to handle their knives and forks, how to eat fruit, and the various other foods and dishes used by foreigners. They have usually not the slightest idea of how to act at a foreign table, or what to do with the things placed before them. It is now customary for wealthy Japanese to have foreign rooms in their homes, and it is necessary for girls to know how to act when invited to such places.

The girls receive instruction in both foreign and Japanese cooking, the same utensils, dishes, stoves, etc., being used in both branches. There is a "shichi rin" (a clay box with charcoal on a grate) on top of which a tin oven is used when we desire to bake anything.

In the domestic science building the girls are also taught washing, dyeing, pasting, etc. All such things are absolutely necessary in a Japanese home and it is our aim to prepare the girls for homes, schools, or any other station they are called upon to fill.

Doubtless you will wonder why it is necessary to receive instruction in pasting, but this is quite an essential branch of a Japanese girl's education. The doors and windows in Japanese homes are latticed frame work covered with thin white paper. Several times a year it is necessary to recover entirely these "fusuma" and "shogi," and at frequent intervals to repair damage, and it must be done with care and skill.

Ethics and the Bible are taught in all classes three times a week and every morning we have twenty minutes for prayers, which are led by the Christian teachers in turn. On Monday of each week the prayer service is in English.

Every Wednesday afternoon each class holds a prayer meeting separately, at which the teachers are present. The pupils lead these meetings and take all responsibility. Frequently we have special speakers for these Wednesday afternoons and every year we have special evangelistic meetings from which much benefit is received. The ministers come often to lecture to the teachers and pupils.

On Sunday morning all teachers and girls attend Sunday-school and church. The teachers and fourth year pupils have regular Sunday-school classes, and the other girls attend Bible class or the highest class in the Sunday-school. We have a normal Sunday-school class held once a week to prepare girls to take these classes on Sunday. On Sunday afternoons we have a song service for an hour and a dormitory prayer meeting in the evening. The teachers lead these meetings and the girls sometimes take part.

As we have school on Saturday as well as every other day in the week but Sunday, we find our time is well occupied.

Apparatus

In the science room we have over One Thousand Yen's worth of apparatus. In Japan the government requires a certain amount of apparatus before a school will be recognized as doing high school work. The apparatus required by our schools in America can not compare with the amount deemed necessary in this country. We have specimens of all kinds of flowers and fruit which cost about five dollars. Many paper charts are necessary. For instance, we have a chart of a chicken and by lifting a bunch of his breast feathers the workings of his craw can be distinctly seen. Everything must be seen to be understood.

In the history and geography room we have relief maps, globes and many charts, also many maps drawn by our pupils, which are really excellent, for Japanese are quite efficient in map drawing. We have charts depicting every age of Japanese customs and dress, also showing the plan of the ancient battles of Japan; the growth of cereals and the process through which they are put to prepare them for food.

We have also a small post card cabinet which contains over a hundred yen's worth of post cards; most of these were given us by a friend of our head teacher's. This young man had been ill with tuberculosis in a hospital here, and our head teacher visited him frequently and our Japanese music teacher went every Sunday afternoon to sing gospel hymns to him. He be-

came an earnest Christian before he died, and asked that his collection of post cards should be given to our school. This collection contains pictures of almost every noted place in Japan and many other towns and villages, as well as depicting almost every phase of life, work and product in the country. We also have cards from many other countries.

The alumnae have started a museum to which the girls contribute samples of the product of their villages, pictures, etc. We have exhibits not only from Japan but also from China, Korea, Formosa, Hawaii, and America.

We have at present seven small organs and the alumnae are planning to give us a one hundred and fifty dollar organ in memory of Miss Houston. We still need three or four more organs. We also have one splendid piano, which we bought in Germany seven years ago, for two hundred and fifty dollars.

Society

The school society is composed of teachers and pupils. The meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month, and punctuality, system and order is insisted upon. Each person is obliged to contribute her share to the entertainment—either music, recitation, original composition or reading—at some of the meetings, and the work of the pupils is criticized by the teachers. The object of the society is to give the girls confidence in themselves and to influence towards wisdom, purity, kindness, and general development, religious and social.

Y. W. C. A.

Two years ago we organized a Y. W. C. A. The membership includes practically all the teachers and girls. Every Thursday afternoon we have a sewing meeting for about an hour, the product of our work being sold and the money given to various causes. Last year we sent old clothing and over five dollars worth of new things to the famine district, and last autumn we sent comfort bags to the Japanese soldiers. We have had four or five letters from the soldiers who received these bags and Bibles, and they were very appreciative of what we had done for them. Before Thanksgiving Day the girls in the dormitory denied themselves dessert for two Sundays, the outside pupils also contributed, and the money was used to buy potatoes for the poor of the Salvation Army. We sent them about enough to fill a one-horse wagon, and afterwards we heard how the things were distributed and appreciated. We sell our waste paper, etc., and give the money to the poor.

Personnel

There are 13 teachers (11 Japanese and Miss Thompson and Miss Kirtland), one matron, one secretary, one doctor for con-

sultation when required, 53 pupils (of which 18 take organ and piano), and 136 alumnae. Of the alumnae 41 have married Christians, and have now splendid Christian homes; 23 have entered higher institutions; 33 are still in their homes; 7 have died; and 32 are teachers in primary schools, kindergartens, girls' high schools, and evangelistic work. The occupations are different but they are all witnessing for Jesus, and are endeavoring to elevate the standard of women in Japan. The 11 Japanese teachers are as follows: one for geography and history, one for science and mathematics, two for the Japanese language, one for English translation, one for music, two for sewing, one for gymnasium and physical culture, one for drawing, one for flower arrangement and Japanese etiquette. The last three come in only once each week to give special instruction.

In addition to her duties as principal, Miss Thompson has to look after the health and proper running of the dormitory and school, takes charge of the school bookkeeping, correspondence, etc., and teaches Bible, English, and cooking.

Miss Kirtland has charge of the music department, also teaches Bible and English and directs the "Myojo Yochien" (Morning Star Kindergarten).

Financial

A day pupil requires an average of one dollar a month to meet all school expenses, and a boarder requires less than four dollars. Evangelist's daughters receive free tuition. The mission appropriates each year the sum of three hundred dollars in gold to be used as scholarships for deserving girls.

Our school plant is worth at present \$42,748.00; the value of the land is \$20,047, the value of the buildings \$20,000, furniture \$2,701.00.

The tuition and music fees amount to approximately \$300.00 a year, and the mission appropriates for the running expenses three thousand dollars.

The question may arise as to whether the cost entailed justifies the continuation of these mission schools. A close study of the matter, however, shows that the results more than compensate for the time and money expended. Very frequently the graduates from our schools are the only Christians in towns and villages far removed from the cities and towns where Christianity is taught, and these girls gather the little ones about them and tell them of the Master's love, and very frequently reach the older ones through the children. These girls have an exceptional opportunity for disseminating the Gospel and usually with less opposition than a foreigner. And while it is hard to trace actual results, it is in reality paving the way for more definite work later on.

We have been requested again and again by a neighboring village to send one of our graduates there to teach in a primary school. One of our girls taught there some years ago and her work was so effective that they desire others from our school to help them. In mission schools about ninety per cent of the girls become Christians and it is hard to estimate the cumulative results of the work they do after leaving school. Many of our graduates become successful Bible women and kindergartners.

It is quite impossible to get in touch with the girls in the government high schools, for as soon as it becomes known that a girl is attending Christian meetings her "home work" is increased to such an extent that it is impossible for her to give any further time to religious work. We must teach the youth of the land or the result of the work is lessened very greatly. In the writer's opinion, there is no form of evangelistic work that is more promising or that gives really better returns than that done through the mission schools.

NAGOYA, JAPAN
March 3rd, 1915.



